



CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITIES, INC. SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

"HEALTHY KIDS MAKE BETTER LEARNERS"

Testimony as Commentary to H.B. No. 5446 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR
REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES

Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher, Representative Fleischmann and Representative Lavielle
Honorable Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Melanie Bonjour, and I am Program Manager for five School Based Health Centers (SBHCs), operated under the umbrella of Connecticut Institute For Communities, Inc. Greater Danbury Community Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center. My SBHC sites, which offer medical, behavioral health and dental services, are located in three Danbury public schools, a State Technical High School and in Newtown Middle School.

I am submitting this testimony as commentary to HB 5446 "AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES."

Sec. 4. (3) Subsection (b) of section 10-206 of the Bill proposes the inclusion of "gross dental screenings performed by a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or another state" during required school physicals.

Many of our School Based Health Centers (SBHC) currently assist school systems by often providing the required school entry physicals for children who have barriers to accessing the services elsewhere, thus assuring that children are ready to start school at the start of the school year. Having the dental assessment performed by SBHC provider(s) and included as part of the overall physical will support getting the dental assessment done in a timely manner, while easing the financial, transportation and scheduling burdens created if a family has to schedule an appointment with a Dentist. Many of the families we serve in our SBHC's have minimal or no dental coverage and/or high deductibles which force them to not seek preventive dental services but rather wait until dental conditions become acute.

Editing the Bill language to include School Based Health Center providers (APRN's, PA's and/or Dental Hygienist, and Dentists) as those eligible to conduct the gross dental screenings would be extremely beneficial to children and families seeking services as well as to SBHC sites providing the integrated health care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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